

Socialism Gaining Strength

Under the caption of "Socialism Gaining Strength," the Red Lodge Picket, a republican paper, delivers to its readers the following editorial, which is worthy of perusal, and shows conclusively that the great growth of Socialism is beginning to be recognized by even the republican press. The article is as follows:

"The official call for the Socialist mass convention, to be held in Red Lodge Sept. 6, has been issued and sent out in circular form by Chairman Burke and Secretary Lay of the committee. The convention will convene at the court house at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and is called for the purpose of nominating a full legislative, county and township ticket and perfecting the county organization of the Socialist party. The call invites all those who believe in the collective ownership of the material means of production and distribution to attend the mass nominating convention.

"There are many excellent planks in the Socialist platform and not a few of the principles are inherently right and will ultimately prevail. We recognize the right of every man to think and act as he chooses, so long as his neighbor is not injured thereby. In instances there may be people who profess Socialism simply because of political pique or disappointment at not receiving preferment or that recognition in the councils of the party with which they have been allied that they think they are justly entitled to receive. These are soreheads, mugwumps, if you please, disgruntled and dissatisfied with all existing political conditions. They want to "turn the rascals out" and put themselves in. We believe, though, that the great body of Socialists are honest in their convictions and firm in the belief that the principles of Socialism, if divested of extreme radicalism and put into operation, would prove beneficial to the country. All the honor and wisdom and patriotism is not wrapped up in any one political organization.

"While we think the republican party is the political instrument through which needed reforms can best be brought about, we do not deny the right of others to think differently.

"It is useless to attempt to disguise the fact that the cause of Socialism is rapidly spreading. Its growth in the state and in this county is noticeable and new converts are daily becoming enrolled under the new banner to fight against the further encroachment of great combinations of capital."

Comment By An Amalgamated Paper

As to Ten-Dollar Mills coming to Montana and the position of The Montana News upon the same, the Anaconda Standard, an Amalgamated paper, has the following editorial comment to offer on the proposition. Under the head of "Drawing the Line" it says:

"Even as the reddest apple is often 'rotten at the core' and the sweetest rose frequently has the sharpest thorn, so the Utopia of Socialism has its unpleasant features; the Montana Socialists are just now concerned over one that has developed in their jurisdiction. The state organ of the Socialists in its current issue discusses the matter and incidentally sheds some light upon a question that vexed many people.

"It appears that one Walter Thomas Mills, an evangelist of So-

cialism, wants to lecture in this state and has written to the Montana Socialists asking for an assignment of dates at the rate of ten dollars per date with an allowance of five dollars for expenses. Commenting upon this proposition, the Socialist paper remarks: 'The News is absolutely opposed to the Montana Socialists giving him any dates at such figures; in fact, they cannot if they so desired, as three dollars per lecture is the established price within the borders of this state; three dollars is Socialism, fifteen dollars is graftism.'

"Whether or not Walter Thomas Mills secures dates in Montana, his request has resulted in some benefit; the line is now drawn between Socialism and 'graftism'; it is three dollars; if you get that you're a Socialist and if you get more you're a grafter. It is well to have these things understood, and the statement of the News is timely and pertinent. It fixes the line of demarcation clearly, sharply and intelligibly. He who runs may read. But just think how many there are who are on the 'graftism' side of the line."

Why So Many Workers Idle?

Why so many "laboring" men idle?
Is it because they have enough of the necessities and luxuries of life stored up?

Why so many "gentlemen" idle?
Is it because they, too, have a full storehouse of the good things that make their sides shake with smiles?

Why so many "working" women idle?
Hundreds of thousands of them wander the streets of America seeking cover from the heat of summer and the storms of winter.

Why so many "ladies" idle?
Is it not because they have keepers who forage upon industry, filling palaces with satins, precious stones and the choice products of those choice idiots, the laboring man and working woman.

Why so much machinery idle?
Is it not because it is owned by that class which neither toils nor does it spin?

Why so much land idle?
Is it because you vote its possession and control into the hands of that class before whom you crawl like whipped curs?

Why so many labor fakirs busy and prosperous, living off the juiciest viands and smoking the best of cigars?

Is it because you union men are ———, well, no language supplies a term sufficiently comprehensive to describe just the kind of animal you are, that you will permit them to dominate you, lead you into strikes and boycotts and keep you away from the discussion and study of the only remedy—the Ballot!

Why so many small merchants on the verge of bankruptcy?
Is it because the producing consumers are dealing direct, each with the other, and dividing the profit which you, the small merchant, enjoyed.

The small merchant will soon be a reminiscence, a curiosity like the old stage coach. He will be found occasionally in some dark corner of the wilderness which the co-operative agent has overlooked. The next great world's fair will exhibit him on the Pike or Midway along with the aborigines of the bush and plains.

Why should the producing consumer support the middle man?
He is as useless to the body economic as is the vermiform appendix is to man's inner works, and this middle man causes a great deal more trouble.

Gomrades Oppose \$10 Mills Generally.

We are glad the comrades generally agree with the stand taken by The News toward Mills' \$10 lectures. But were we alone in the matter we would continue to oppose the recognition of Mills as being worthy of more pay than are thousands of others who are pouring out their souls in behalf of the emancipation of the wage slaves from their thralldom. Because Mills is ready of speech and profound in the doctrines of Socialism is no reason for meting out to him greater pay; this very qualification is strong argument for Mills confining his demands to pay received by others in the same field. Ida Croch-Hetzlett receives \$3 per lecture, which is more than the great mass of humanity receive for 10 hours' hard, exacting labor, and it is from these hard-working wage slaves that Mills' \$10 must come. This paper has a goodly staff of men who work day and night, year in and year out, and receive no compensation excepting the glory and pleasure in pushing toward fruition the great cause we love so well, the cause of humanity—Socialism. If Mills is a true, dyed in the wool Socialist, he would do as true Socialists do, dig for his fellow creatures without regard to pay. Let Mills "make good."

When a Man Leaps Into Socialism

When a man leaps into Socialism; that is to say, the moment the great fundamental truth reaches home, eats through and into his mental epidermis, that moment that man is figuratively jerked up and whisked through all the worlds of doubt. The transition is instantaneous. He cannot count telegraph poles, nor the rail clicks. He is away and out far beyond the mumble of idiocies one hears in the old society, such for instance as "It can't come in our time;" "It will take ten thousand years to bring about your dreams;" "Human nature will have to change before that will come to pass." And more of the same hogwash. From the vantage point of truth the Socialist sees clear through every fallacy of other systems. He lives in an atmosphere from which darkness has been drained to the last dregs. His transition was instantaneous because frictionless. He was born again. His old soulless self was cremated in the brilliant light of everlasting truth. No slag remained. Harmony is his atmosphere. There are no discords battling with the rhythm of his social and individual hopes.

Knowing the way and the bourne he perforce must lead his brother.

Why shouldn't we be Socialists?

When we survey the field of political action, and we might say economic action, the great impel-

ling force of self-respect compels a falling away from old party moorings. That is the first step. It being the nature of man to attach to something which promises stability, he seeks other organized association.

He attempts to square himself with his past political gyrations, fearing otherwise the ridicule of his fellows.

A compromise results. Formerly he joined the populist or another party or movement, all being mere palliatives, flirtations with the devil while cohabiting with hope.

Now the issue is drawn tightly. All middle ground is swept away. The Pops are no more. Nominally there are three parties—the Socialist, the democratic and republican; in fact there are only two—the Socialist and anti-Socialist. Soon the two wings of the one capitalist organization will have amalgamated.

The republican and democratic parties being one in principle will be one in name.

This anti-Socialist party will continue the old class support of profit, interest and rent, its support of all the viciousness inherent in this system of hate, of murder, of rapine, of Hannaism.

The Socialist movement represents the antithesis of class interests. It breathes into the nostrils of youth Opportunity. Opportunity is next to everything. Given the machinery of progress and opportunity will do the rest.

Given the opportunity to grow in body and mind from the cradle up and growth will continue to the

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grave. Pour the liquor of vice, of avarice, of churchly superstition, of priestly cunning, of social canker, of the "400," of business down the throat of man and you stunt his progress.

Surround him with a scientific realization of life's meaning, man will come into his estate, his demonstrations of power will pass the miraculous.

Eliminate profit and man emerges from his chrysalis the beast.

Untie the leash and man will bound into forestial paths to draw from nature the essential oil of life.

Hold him to the present system of child labor and mental and physical starvation of 90 per cent of all the people and what artist can foretell the result?

Give man the co-operative commonwealth, with the collective ownership of all means of production and distribution, and history could not repeat itself, for history records nothing that could be likened unto his greatness.

Ending with the text: "Why shouldn't we be Socialists?"

The national secretary is prepared to furnish the following literature to state committees, locals or individuals:

Leaflets (four pages), "Who Is Responsible for Anarchy in Colorado?" (2) "The Mission of the Socialist Party;" (3) National Platform, (newly adopted), prices on each, 500 for 75 cents; 1,000 up to 5,000, \$1.25 per 1,000; 5,000 and upwards, \$1.15 per 1,000. All prepaid. The Colorado leaflet is changed in price so that it can be sent prepaid, this being cheaper to buyers than when sent otherwise.

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